



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

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**NEW YORK OCDETF STRIKE FORCE SMASHES  
INTERNATIONAL HEROIN RING IN THE BRONX**

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SEIZE 150,000 VIALS OF HEROIN WORTH MORE THAN \$1.5 MILLION, SEVEN FIREARMS, 150 GRINDERS USED TO MANUFACTURE HEROIN FOR RETAIL SALE, TWO MONEY COUNTING MACHINES AND \$250,000 CASH; 13 MEMBERS OF RING CHARGED IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT*

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, JOHN P. GILBRIDE, the Special Agent in Charge of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") in New York, RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department (the "NYPD"), MICHAEL J. THOMAS, the Special Agent in Charge of the United States Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division ("IRS-CID") in New York, MARTIN FICKE, the Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") in New York, ANDREW ARENA, the Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Division ("FBI") in New York, and MARK SMITH, Major of the New York State Police ("NYSP"), all of whom

are members of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force's Strike Force (the "Strike Force"), jointly announced today the complete dismantlement of a heroin manufacturing and distribution operation based in the Bronx, New York.

Yesterday afternoon, Strike Force officers, working together with members of the NYPD's Organized Crime Investigation Division ("OCID"), raided a house located at 31-66 Fenton Avenue, Bronx, New York. Inside the house, officers allegedly located an elaborate heroin manufacturing "mill" and seized more than 150,000 vials of heroin worth more than \$1.5 million on New York City streets, 150 grinders used to manufacture heroin for retail sale, seven firearms, two money counting machines, and approximately \$250,000 in cash. Strike Force and OCID officers also arrested 13 members of the criminal organization who were allegedly manufacturing and packaging heroin in the mill at the time of the raid.

The raid conducted yesterday was carried out by Strike Force officers working with officers from OCID. On May 27, 2004, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the opening of the Strike Force in Manhattan dedicated to identifying, targeting, and dismantling the world's most sophisticated and powerful narcotics trafficking organizations. The New York OCDETF Strike Force currently consists of more than 175 law enforcement officers from six different federal, state, and local law

enforcement agencies as part of an effort to bring the combined resources and talents of the participating agencies to bear against the largest suppliers of illegal drugs to the United States.

Each of the 13 defendants arrested has been charged with federal narcotics-trafficking and firearms offenses in a Complaint filed today in Manhattan federal court. If convicted, the 13 charged defendants face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years' imprisonment on the narcotics-trafficking and firearms charges. The defendants will be presented in Manhattan federal court, 500 Pearl Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, later this afternoon.

Mr. KELLEY praised the collective efforts of the Strike Force, and the individual performance of the DEA, the NYPD, the IRS, ICE, the FBI, the NYSP, and OCID.

This case is being prosecuted by the International Narcotics Trafficking Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Assistant United States Attorneys AMY FINZI and GLEN G. MCGORTY are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.